

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

DRC-01 /097 W

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R 150925Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5500

INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 7571

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LY, NI

SUBJECT: GOWON VISIT TO LIBYA POSTPONED

REF: LAGOS 7342; TRIPOLI 0872

1. DIRECTOR MEA AFRICA DEPARTMENT OGUNSULIRE CONFIRMED TO EMBOFF AUGUST 14 REPORT LAGOS REFTEL THAT GOWON VISIT TO LIBYA CONFIDENTLY ANNOUNCED BY LARG (TRIPOLI REFTEL) HAS BEEN POSTPONED SINE DIE. ACCORDING OGUNSULIRE, POSTPONEMENT DECIDED BY FMG SOLELY BECAUSE OF PRESSURE OTHER BUSINESS, BOTH DOMESTIC AFFAIRS AND FORTHCOMING GOWON VISIT TO PRC. OGUNSULIRE INSISTED THAT LIKELY SADAT DISPLEASURE WAS NOT A FACTOR IN FMG DECISION TO DEFER TRIPOLI VISIT.

2. LARG ANNOUNCEMENT, OGUNSULIRE SAID, WAS TYPICAL EXAMPLE OF LIBYAN OVERZEALOUSNESS. ARRANGEMENTS FOR VISIT WERE IN FACT STILL IN PRELIMINARY STAGE WHEN LIBYANS ISSUED THEIR RELEASE, ACTION WHICH CAUSED MINOR EMBARRASSMENT AND CONSIDERABLE IRRITATION IN LAGOS. SEPARATE SOURCE REPORTS THAT NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR IN TRIPOLI WAS IN FACT CAUGHT BY SURPRISE AT LEARNING OF POSSIBLE GOWON VISIT FROM LOCAL PRESS, FURTHER EVIDENCE THAT LARG ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE WITHOUT PRIOR AGREEMENT.

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3. COMMENT: DESPITE OGUNSULIRE'S DISCLAIMER, RUMORS ARE
RIFE IN LOCAL CIRCLES THAT MEA IN FACT WAVED RED FLAG WHEN
THEY LEARNED OF PROJECTED VISIT AND CONVINCED GOWON THAT
POSTPONEMENT DESIRABLE IN ORDER AVOID UNNECESSARILY IRRITATING
SADAT. IN VIEW GROWING PRESSURE ON GOWON FROM DOMESTIC
DEVELOPMENTS, LIBYAN VISIT MAY REMAIN ON SHELF FOR SOME
TIME TO COME.
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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 15 AUG 1974
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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30 JUN 2005

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